

**Conservation Plan Program
Stakeholder Advisory Group
Powhatan Banquet Hall
Pocahontas State Park, Chesterfield, Virginia
October 3, 2017**

Stakeholder Advisory Group Members Present

Sara Bottenfield, Shenandoah Valley SWCD
Rick Brown, Halifax SWCD
Glen Chappell, III, James River SWCD
Darryl Glover, DCR
Todd Groh, VDOF
Frank Johnson, Northern Neck SWCD
Darryl Marshall, VDACS
Kevin McLean, VASWCD
Marian Moody, Hanover-Caroline SWCD
Joan Salvati, DEQ
Kelly Snoddy, Peter Francisco SWCD
Sarah Tilson, Evergreen SWCD
Brian Walton, Thomas Jefferson, SWCD
Christine Watlington, DCR
Ashley Wendt, DEQ
Chad Wentz, NRCS
Charles Wootton, Piedmont SWCD
Rebecca LePrell, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

DCR Staff Present

Scott Ambler
Michael Fletcher
David Kindig
Barbara McGarry
Carl Thiel-Goin
Amy Walker

WELCOME

Mr. Thiel-Goin called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and welcomed attendees. He asked attendees to introduce themselves.

REVIEW MARCH MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Thiel-Goin asked for changes or corrections to the March meeting minutes. There were none and the minutes stood approved.

RARE, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

REVISED: 10/16/2017 3:10 PM

Mr. Thiel-Goin reported that staff has been working with the Division of Natural Heritage to look at the processes already in place for dealing with rare, threatened, and endangered resources. DCR is also working with the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and the Department of Historic Resources.

RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

Mr. Thiel-Goin reviewed the resource sheets and asked for comment from members. A copy of the Resource Farm Summary is included as Attachment A. He noted that the Farm Summary had not changed significantly since the last review.

Mr. Thiel-Goin noted that item 9 provided the opportunity to state whether other funding, state or federal, was being received. He advised that those farms receiving federal funding would need to work through NRCS for their plan.

Mr. Wentz asked if there was guidance regarding wetlands.

Mr. Thiel-Goin responded that DCR is developing a step-by-step process to address wetlands.

Mr. Thiel-Goin advised that the intent was to present the final document to the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board at their December meeting. He noted that SAG members could still submit comments over the next two weeks.

Mr. Thiel-Goin reviewed the Resource Guide Sheet. A copy is included as Attachment B.

A member suggested adding a notation regarding the type of TMDL, if applicable. This is needed if the plan is specifically addressing the TMDL.

Mr. Thiel-Goin reviewed the list of Conservation Planner Certification Courses for initial certification. A copy of the suggested list is included as Attachment C. He noted that the online courses would be available through the Commonwealth of Virginia Online Learning Center.

Mr. Thiel-Goin reviewed the recommended Conservation Planner Recertification Contact Hours. A copy of the recommendation is included as Attachment D. Planners will need thirty contact hours over a three-year period and a plan reviewed for recertification. All Contact hours need to be pre-approved by DCR.

Mr. Thiel-Goin noted that at the December meeting of the VASWCD, staff would be presenting to Districts and District staff regarding access, functionality, and offerings within the Learning Center.

Mr. Thiel-Goin asked that any comments regarding the materials presented be directed to DCR no later than October 20, 2017.

Mr. Thiel-Goin thanked members for their participation and input.

The meeting was adjourned.

ATTACHMENT A



DCR Conservation Plan Farm Summary

General Farm Questions

1) Operator Name:				
2) Farm Name:				
3) County(s) included in plan:				
4) Mailing Address:				
5) Headquarters Address:				
6) Home Phone:		Work/Cell Phone:		
7) Email address:				
8) Landowner Contact:				
9) Have you ever contacted or received assistance/service from the following agencies or private entities? <input type="checkbox"/> FSA <input type="checkbox"/> NRCS <input type="checkbox"/> SWCD <input type="checkbox"/> VDOF <input type="checkbox"/> VDGIF <input type="checkbox"/> Private Consulting Forester <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ *If you are receiving federal cost share, the plan must be an NRCS-compliant Conservation Plan.				
Notes:				
Land Use Acres	Owned	Rented	State-Owned	Federally-Owned
Pasture				
Hayland				
Cropland				
Woodlands/Forestland				
Other				
Total Acres				
*If operating on federal lands, there is a requirement for an NRCS-compliant Conservation Plan.				
*If operating on state lands, there may be additional requirements to your DCR conservation plan.				
Is there an HEL determination on included land units? Y / N				
Is there a wetland determination on any included land units? Y / N				
Is any of your land in a preservation/easement program? Describe:				
Notes:				

For the following sections, complete as applicable.

Livestock

1) Summarize average livestock numbers in a typical year:				
Poultry:				# on pasture
Number of Flocks/Year:		Cattle:	Total #	
Broilers	Per flock	Dairy Milk Cows		
Layers	Per flock	Dairy Dry Cows		
Roasters	Per flock	Beef Cow/Calf		
Pullets	Per flock	Stockers		
Swine:		Equine:		
Swine for Breeding		Horses		
Swine for Slaughter		Other:		
		Goats		
		Sheep		
Average Weight:				
Other (specify):				
2) Is farm a CAFO or AFO? Y / N Is it currently operating under a permit? Y/N				
3) How do you manage animal waste?				
Give/sell waste to other operators(s) (%)		Applications are made when or because storage is unavailable		
Kept in covered storage for later use/disposal		Stockpiled in field for later use/disposal		
Applied directly to fields (percentage: %)		Other:		
4) If you use a waste storage facility, what type is it and what is the capacity?				
Type of Storage:			Capacity in Cu. Ft./Gallons:	
5) How is mortality managed?				
Notes:				

Pasture Management

1) Total pasture acres?			
Number of paddocks?		Acres/paddock	
Average Days spent in paddock		# Animal/paddock	
2) Is livestock excluded from any streams, ponds, wetlands, or sensitive areas?			Y / N
3) Are there buffers on streams, ponds, wetlands, or sensitive areas?			Y / N
Approximate buffer widths and types:			
4) Water Source?			
5) Is there a grazing plan? Y / N			
6) Are soil tests done on the pasture fields? Y / N Date of last test:			
7) What types of fertilizer are applied to pasture?			
8) Is the pasture included in a nutrient management plan? Y/N			
Notes:			

Cropland Management						
1) Total crop acres:						
2) Are there buffers on streams, ponds, wetlands, or sensitive areas?						
Approximate buffer widths and types:						
3) What is a typical rotation?						
4) What is your tillage system?		Corn	Soybean	Sm. Grain	Hay	Other
Conservation/Mulch Till	Acres					
No-Till (Continuous? Y / N)	Acres					
Conventional Till	Acres					
Vertical Till/Turbo Till	Acres					
5) How long has this tillage system been used?						
6) Are cover crops included in the cropping rotation? Y / N If yes, please describe the cover crop system for a typical year:						
7) Is the cropland included in a nutrient management plan? Y / N If yes, who is your plan writer?						
8) Do you have soil tests taken on crop fields? Y / N		How often?		Date of last tests?		
9) Is nitrogen applied as a split application? Y / N						
10) Are any of the following Nutrient Management Practices utilized?		Use Regularly	Do Not Use	Have Used, Not Regularly		
N Stabilizers						
Pre-Sidedress Nitrate Test						
Corn Stalk Nitrate Test						
Tissue Analysis						
Application setbacks from ditches or streams						
Other:						
11) Is manure applied to this farm?		Y / N	What type?			
Is manure injected?		Y / N				
Is a manure analysis conducted?		Y / N	How often?			
Is the manure spreader calibrated?		Y / N	How often?			
12) Is there a pest management plan?		Y / N	Is pest scouting conducted?			Y / N
How are chemicals applied?						
13) Are pesticides and fertilizers stored on the farm?						Y / N
Are spill containment controls in place?						Y / N
Notes:						

ATTACHMENT B



Conservation Planning Resource Guide Sheet

Plan Identifier:

(Participant name, locality, land unit ID, Plan #)

Check Off Observed or Measured Resource Concerns to Address in VA Conservation Plan

SOIL	<input type="checkbox"/> Sheet, Rill & Wind Erosion	<input type="checkbox"/> Concentrated Flow/Gully
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excessive Bank Erosion Associated with Streams, Shorelines or Water Conveyance Channels	
	<input type="checkbox"/> HEL	<input type="checkbox"/> NHEL <input type="checkbox"/> No Determination
	<input type="checkbox"/> Subsidence	<input type="checkbox"/> Organic Matter Depletion
	<input type="checkbox"/> Compaction	<input type="checkbox"/> Concentration of Salts or Other Chemicals
	Observation Notes:	
WATER	<input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of Land Use/Conversion Activities	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Adjacent to Water (Surface Water Flow, Ponds, Wetland, Etc.)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Changes in Hydrology	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Dredge and Fill Activities	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Riparian Buffer Activities	
	<input type="checkbox"/> In-stream/Aquatic Activities	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sediment Disposal Near Waters	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excess (Ponding, Flooding, Seasonal High Water Table, Seeps, and Drifted Snow)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient (Inefficient Moisture Management)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient (Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Wetland(s) Presence	
Observation Notes:		
PLANTS	<input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Vegetative Cover	<input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate Structure and Composition
	<input type="checkbox"/> Habitat Degradation	<input type="checkbox"/> Invasive Species Presence
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excessive Plant Pest Pressure	<input type="checkbox"/> Loss of Native Vegetation
	<input type="checkbox"/> Undesirable Plant Productivity	
	Observation Notes:	
FARM ANIMALS	<input type="checkbox"/> Animal (CAFO or Other) Contaminants, Excessive Nutrients or Other Point Sources	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Improper Livestock Grazing Management	<input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate Livestock Shelter
	<input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate Feed and Forage	<input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate Livestock water
	<input type="checkbox"/> Animal Access to State Waters	
Observation Notes:		
VIRGINIA CONCERNS	<input type="checkbox"/> Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act	
	<input type="checkbox"/> TMDL	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Location in Floodplain	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Wetland Conversions/Alterations/Land clearing	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Local Environmental Requirements	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Historic Resources (see instruction about query)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Rare Threatened and Endangered Species (see instruction about query)	

ATTACHMENT C



Conservation Planner Certification Courses (initial certification)

Name:

Online:	Completion Date
Conservation Planning Introduction	
Nitrogen Management and Concerns	
Phosphorus Management and Concerns	
Sediment Management	
Overview of Water Quality Resource Assessment	
Water Bodies	
Pest Management and Water Quality Implications	
Water Management	

In Person: (classroom and/or in-the-field)	Completion Date
DCR Conservation Planning Module User Training (prerequisite to Intro)	
DCR Nutrient Management Soil Science, Soil Fertility and Crop Production School	
Basic RUSLE2 certification (class and certificate)	
VDACS Pesticide Management category 10 (training only)	
VA Water Concerns (CBPA, Water Quality, Wetlands, Permits, TMDL, Perennial Stream ID)	
VA Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species Protection	
VA Cultural and Historic Resources Protection	
Conservation Selling Skills	
Introduction to VA's Ag BMP Program (includes instruction on use of NRCS eFOTG for VA CP planning)	
Conservation Plan Review (individually in-the-field, all coursework above is prerequisite)	

ATTACHMENT D

**Conservation Planner Recertification Contact Hours**

DCR Conservation Planner Recertification requires 30 contact hours over the course of the 3-year certification period.

All contact hours must be *pre-approved* by DCR

Description	Contact Hours
Conservation Related College Semester Course	45
Conservation Related College Quarter Course	30
Attend Professional Level Webinar, seminar, professional meeting, convention, or conference	1 1 hour for each qualifying hour of training
Provide Professional Level Presentation Webinar, seminar, professional meeting, convention, or conference	2 per presentation limited to 8 contact hours
Active participation as an officer or committee member in a scientific professional organization or society	2 per year per organization
Attend Conservation outreach activity provided by a discipline specialist	1 hour per activity limited to 6 hours max
Attend Conservation On-Job Training provided by a discipline specialist	1 hour per activity limited to 10 contact hours